

THE WASHINGTON POST
9 June 1976

Kennedy Sends Letter to Bush

CIA Data Destruction Opposed

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) urged the Central Intelligence Agency yesterday not to destroy any of its records concerning illegal and improper activities.

In a letter to CIA Director George Bush, Kennedy, as chairman of the Senate Administrative Practice and Procedure Subcommittee, asked that the agency "defer any such planned destruction for the foreseeable future."

Bush notified Senate leaders last week that the agency was planning to get rid of a backlog of routine administrative records and documents compiled over the past year that were "subject to investigation" by congressional committees and the Rockefeller commission.

Although the CIA has said the planned destruction would be consistent with all applicable laws, Kennedy, whose subcommittee has jurisdiction over freedom of information legislation, said he did not see how this assurance could be accepted

without prior, outside review of the documents to be destroyed.

"Obviously," Kennedy wrote Bush, "any after-the-fact assessment would be fruitless where the proposed action would obliterate the only material which would

provide the basis for such assessment."

Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee lodged her own protest against the CIA's plans Monday.